

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ERDA-05 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00
COME-00 EPG-02 DODE-00 EB-07 FPC-01 H-01 INR-07
INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-04 USIA-06
OES-07 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 ACDA-07 AGRE-00
FRB-03 LAB-04 PA-01 ITC-01 PRS-01 FEA-01 AF-10
ARA-10 EA-07 NEA-10 IO-13 FTC-01 /163 W
-----078535 242356Z /70

R 241737Z JUN 77

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5535
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

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USOECD
USEEC

E.O.11652: N/A
TAGS: ETRD, EIND, UK, US
SUBJECT: ANTITRUST: URANIUM CARTEL, CRUDE OIL MARKET
AND CREDIT CARDS

1. URANIUM CARTEL. THE SUBJECT OF THE URANIUM PRODUCERS CARTEL AND THE RELATED ISSUES OF U.S. ANTITRUST POLICY AND EXTRATERRITORIALITY HAVE ATTRACTED CONSIDERABLE PRESS ATTENTION IN THE UK DURING THE PAST TWO WEEKS. THERE HAS BEEN NOTHING THAT IS STRIKINGLY NEW TO REPORT, BUT FOR BACKGROUND PURPOSES EMBASSY IS POUCHING A NUMBER OF ARTICLES TO EB/IFD/BP.

2. CRUDE OIL MARKET. EMBASSY NOTES THAT U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE HAS ANNOUNCED AN INVESTIGATION INTO POSSIBLE ANTI-COMPETITIVE PRACTICES IN THE INTERNATIONAL CRUDE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OIL MARKET AND THE INTENTION TO COLLECT CERTAIN DATA FROM MAJOR INTERNATIONAL OIL COMPANIES. WE ASSUME THIS INVESTIGATION WILL INCLUDE BP. REQUEST GUIDANCE ON WHETHER EMBASSY SHOULD OFFICIALLY NOTIFY UK GOVERNMENT AND ANY INFORMATION AVAILABLE FOR USE IN BRIEFING AND DISCUSSIONS WITH BRITISH OFFICIALS.

3. CREDIT CARD INVESTIGATION. THE UK OFFICE OF FAIR TRADING HAS REFERRED THE ISSUE OF CREDIT CARDS TO THE MONOPOLIES AND MERGERS COMMISSION TO DETERMINE WHETHER MAJOR CREDIT CARD OPERATORS ARE USING THEIR DOMINANCE OF THE MARKET TO DICTATE TERMS OF TRADE WHICH ARE AGAINST THE PUBLIC INTEREST. SPECIFICALLY, THE ISSUE APPEARS TO BE WHETHER RETAILERS WHO PAY COMMISSIONS ARE SUBSIDIZING THE PERIODS OF INTEREST-FREE CREDIT WHICH ARE GIVEN TO CARD HOLDERS AND WHETHER PRICES ARE INCREASED AS A RESULT OF RETAILERS THEN RECOVERING THE EXTRA COST OF COMMISSIONS. THE CREDIT CARD COMPANIES LISTED INCLUDE THE LARGE UK FIRMS AS WELL AS AMERICAN EXPRESS AND DINERS CLUB. THERE IS SOME QUESTION WHETHER CARTE BLANCHE IS ALSO INVOLVED.

BREWSTER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: URANIUM, OILS, MARKETS, CREDIT, ANTITRUST, POLICIES, CARTELS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 24-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Film Number: D770227-0470
Format: TEL
From: LONDON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770620/aaaaarei.tel
Line Count: 78
Litigation Code IDs:
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Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: ec4e0477-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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Original Previous Classification: n/a
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Retention: 0
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Review Date: 14-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
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Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
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Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ANTITRUST: URANIUM CARTEL, CRUDE OIL MARKET AND CREDIT CARDS
TAGS: ETRD, EIND, UK, US
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Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/ec4e0477-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
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